IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Yabuta et al. § Group Art Unit: 3625

Serial No.: 09/900,265 § Examiner: Fadok, Mark A.

Filed: July 6, 2001 § Confirmation No.: 7588

For: Method and System for Performing & Attorney Docket No.: JP920000193US1

Commodity Purchasing

36736 PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE CUSTOMER NUMBER

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

A fee of \$810.00 is required for filing a Request for Continued Examination. Please charge this fee to IBM Corporation Deposit Account No. 09-0461. No additional fees are believed to be necessary. If, however, any additional fees are required, I authorize the Commissioner to charge these fees to IBM Corporation Deposit Account No. 09-0461. No extension of time is believed to be necessary. If, however, an extension of time is necessary, I authorize the Commissioner to charge the necessary extension fees to IBM Corporation Deposit Account No. 09-0461.

Prior to continued examination of this application, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Listing of Claims begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 5 of this paper.